



*Parks, Recreation and  
Neighborhood Services*

## **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

# **SYNOPSIS**

PRC AGENDA: ~~3-5-08~~ 3-19-08  
ITEM: ~~5.2~~ 4.2  
(Deferred)

### **DEVELOPMENT MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 20, 2008  
5:30 P.M.**

**Upper Watson Community Center  
Annex Building  
550 North 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
(Between E. Empire and Jackson Streets)  
San José, CA 95112**

MELANIE RICHARDSON, CHAIR

MARY ANN RUIZ, VICE CHAIR

MIKE FLAUGHER

LESLEE HAMILTON

G.M. HARDING

JAMES KIM

JULIE MATSUSHIMA

ERIK KARSTAN SMITH

### **DEVELOPMENT MEETING**

#### **1 CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 5:50 p.m.

Present: Richardson, Ruiz and Hamilton

Late: Kim (5:55 p.m.) and Flaughner (6:10 p.m.)

Absent: Harding, Matsushima and Smith

#### **2 ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Item 5.2 was heard first due to a temporary lack of quorum.

#### **3 ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

#### **4 CONSENT CALENDAR**

##### **4.1 Acceptance of Report on Planning Applications from Weekly Staff Review Meetings**

**It was moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Ruiz and voted 5-0 to approve the Consent Calendar.**

Continued

## **5 ACTION ITEMS**

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### **5.1 Approval of Proposed Changes to the Fees and Charges for the Citywide Aquatics Program**

Deputy Director Cynthia Bojorquez presented the proposed changes.

The Commission complimented staff on balancing cost recovery with affordability.

**It was moved by Commissioner Kim, seconded by Commissioner Hamilton and voted 5-0 to approve the proposed changes to the fees and charges for the Citywide Aquatics Program.**

### **5.2 Acceptance of Report on San José Redevelopment Agency Guadalupe River Park Plans** Program Manager Dennis Korabiak of the Redevelopment Agency provided background information on the development of the Guadalupe River Park Master Plan and current activities of the park.

Mr. Korabiak focused on the area from Coleman Avenue to Julian Street, which is near the location of the approximately 10-acre parcel owned by the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) proposed for the Railroad Museum Park. The current zoning for the site is industrial/commercial. Based on the request from the adjacent neighborhood, if this site was used for industrial or commercial uses, it would require a vehicle bridge over the Guadalupe River. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has agreed to construct the vehicle bridge in lieu of one of the two railroad bridges that also needs to be replaced as part of the Guadalupe River Flood Control Project. The Army Corp of Engineers' proposed vehicle bridge and the replacement of the remaining railroad bridge are currently unfunded by the Federal Government. The proposed Railroad Museum Park does not displace any elements of the proposed Guadalupe River Park. Mr. Korabiak further stated that if the Railroad Museum Park is developed, then a pedestrian/bicycle bridge over to Guadalupe River should be considered by the City to link the Museum to the west bank of the river.

A motion was not made due to a temporary lack of quorum.

### **5.3 Acceptance of Report on Railroad Museum Park at Guadalupe River Park**

Rod Diridon, Sr., Executive Director of the Mineta Transportation Institute, gave a presentation and displayed a model of the proposed San José Railroad Museum Park sponsored by the California Trolley and Railroad Corporation (CTRC). The project would be created on approximately ten acres of vacant land owned by the Union Pacific Railroad. Approximately half of the site would be used by the Railroad Museum. The remaining portion, as proposed in the model, is a softball field with an overlapping soccer field, additional turf area and landscaping. Ryland Park is approximately two blocks to the east of this proposed site.

If the Railroad Museum Park is built per the model shown on the UPRR parcel, there would be no need for the vehicle bridge to access property. The land would be

recreational under the City's General Plan and Zoning and therefore could be accessed from Ryland Street. The proposed Federal funds for the vehicle bridge could be used to help acquire the property. The other required bridge is the rebuilding of an old railroad trestle bridge as part of the flood control project.

A concern was raised regarding museums not being profitable. Mr. Diridon explained that the CTRC was a longstanding 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that has contributed to the City, at no cost to the City.

Director Albert Balagso noted that the City currently has not taken a position on this site. The challenge is that it is zoned industrial/commercial and the City has adopted a policy of non-conversion of employment lands. It is being viewed as potential employment opportunities.

Speakers: Bill Hough and Tina Morrow spoke in support of the project.

**It was moved by Commissioner Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Ruiz and voted 5-0 to accept the Report on the Railroad Museum Park at Guadalupe River Park; and to authorize Chair Richardson to write a letter of support for the concept to the City Council with the following conditions:**

- **Express concern that the railroad trestle bridge must be rebuilt and to explore pedestrian/bicycle access to the Museum from the west bank.**
- **The site maintains the recreation elements as depicted in the current model.**

**5.4 Approval of Date for Joint Meeting with the Planning Commission  
Deferred to March 5, 2008.**

The Parks and Recreation Commission development meeting concluded at 6:45 p.m. and was followed by the study session on the Watson Park Master Plan.